## **ABSTRACT**

A method is provided for operating an internal combustion engine 10 in overrun condition, which method includes the steps of: release of a monitoring of a control signal for a power actuator of the internal combustion engine when predetermined release conditions have been satisfied, which include the exceeding of a release rotary speed of the internal combustion engine; after the release, comparing a control signal for the power actuator of the internal combustion engine to a threshold value, and triggering an error response if the control signal exceeds the threshold value. The method provides that the release speed is varied as a function of the intervention of an idling speed control in the formation of the control signal. Also provided is a control unit which controls such a method.

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